

BROOKLINE COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting
Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The Brookline Council on Aging (COA) meeting was held at the Brookline Senior Center on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 1:00 pm. Present were:

- Board members: Doris Toby Axelrod, Trudy Cohen, Irving B. Finn, Philip Fullerton, Jean Kramer, Celia Lascarides, Helen Lew, Alan Morse, Shirley Radlo, Agnes Rogers, Miriam Sargon, and Dorothy Wolfson
- Staff: Ruthann Dobek, Judith Gimple, and Julie Washburn
- Others: Beatrice Broide, Brian Lane, and E. Nebosai

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Agnes Rogers. Acceptance of the minutes of the April meeting were moved, seconded, and approved.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for their good wishes and donations for her son, Raymond.

She then introduced the guest speaker, Brian Lane of the Brookline Transportation Board, who gave us a stop-by-stop update on the changes that are going to be made to the MBTA's Bus #66 Brookline bus route.

Mr. Kane started by saying that 14,000 people a day use the #66 bus on the Brookline portion of the route alone. Mr. Lane, as a member of the Brookline Transportation Board, is on the MBTA Advisory Board.

Changes to the #66 bus route are being made at virtually every stop along the Brookline portion of the route. These changes were laid out by Mr. Lane for each Brookline south—south- and northbound. The changes fell into four categories:

- Transit signal priority—Buses will have priority crossing intersecting streets wherever possible. In some cases, there will be sensors installed that will change the lights in an intersection in order for the bus to take priority.

- Far-side bus stops—Wherever possible, buses will stop AFTER they have crossed intersections. This will make the stops safer for passengers getting on and off the buses and will help calm traffic.
- Bus shelters—Whenever there is enough room and when the usage of the stop warrants it, shelters will be constructed. If there is not enough room for a shelter, a bench will be placed if that is possible.
- Stop location rationalization—low usage stops will be dropped and the remaining stops near the dropped stops will be rationalized so that there is not too much distance between stops for people to handle.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Lane gave this brief history of the Transportation Board. It was created in 1974 by the Commonwealth Legislature. It is made up of six members appointed to three-year terms by the Board of Selectmen. Decisions by the Transportation Board are appealable to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen, of course, are answerable to the Town Meeting.

Agnes Rogers thanks Mr. Kane for his informative and interesting talk. She then called for committee reports:

There was no Springwell report.

Director's Report:

- The WORC program that provides jobs for low-income residents will have an increase in funds in FY2011 beginning July 1.
- There is a warrant for the Town Meeting that will increase the number of Tax Workoff jobs in the Town from 20 to 25 and the amount of tax money a Workoff person can reduce their property taxes by from \$750 to \$1000. In addition, the program will be need-based and the jobs advertised.
- The Town has approved \$18000 for an outreach worker for the COA for a period of one year, starting July 1.
- Town elections were good for the COA:
 - Liaison with the COA—Nancy Daly and Richard Benka
 - Chairman of the Board of Selectmen—Betsy Dewitt
 - Chairman of the School Committee—Rebecca Stone
 - Library Trustee—Roberta Winiker
 - Constable—Marvin Fineman
- Town Meeting is May 25-26
- The Aging at Home program is meeting today. Committees have been

set up and are listed in both the May and the June issues of the *Senior News and Events*.

- Members of *Seasoned Voices*, the Senior Center's poetry workshop, were taped by Senior Scene, which is now showing on BATV.
- In July, we will start planning a Senior Center Literary Book or Magazine.
- The Petite Boutique will be on Sunday, May 16.
- The Brookline Rotary is donating part, possibly all, of the cost of the \$1500 of fuel it takes to run the Senior Van for a year. The Van will now bear a sign that says: This van is fueled by Brookline Rotary.
- Alberta Lipson has now given a rough draft of the 85+ Study to Ruthann.
- Members of the BA&CE/Senior Center sponsored course, *Telling Your Story*, will do their annual public reading on Wednesday, May 19, at 10:15 am.
- The Coolidge Corner Theatre is running a program aimed at helping people with memory loss.
- Alan Morse will be stepping down as our liaison and school committee will be discussing role of new liaison.

There being no new business, Agnes Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn, which was given, seconded, and agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The next meeting of the COA Board will be held on Wednesday, June 9.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Gimple